

To these names I should also have added that of Captain Henry T. R. Lloyd, R.M.L.I., had he lived. This officer was with me in the advance towards Peking, and was engaged in every action, showing on all occasions great courage and zeal.

E. H. SEYMOUR,
Vice-Admiral.

Enclosure to letter from the Commander-in-Chief
on the China Station.

(No. 429 of 23rd July, 1900.)

H.M. Naval Brigade,

Tientsin, 15th July, 1900.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, the following details regarding the operations of the 13th and 14th instant, resulting in the complete capture of the native walled city and forts by the allied forces.

Early on the morning of the 13th, a large force of Russians, accompanied by some Germans and French, attacked on the E. and N.E., while the remainder of the forces from the Settlement marched out of the Taku gate and proceeded to make a *détour* to the west, in preparation for an attack on the south gate of the city.

By request of General Dorward, I directed all the naval guns, including the 4-inch and 12-pr. guns mounted close to the Russian camp, under the direction of Lieutenant Luard, of H.M.S. "Barfleur," and those in the Meadows Road, near the wool mill, and on the mud wall, to be in readiness to open fire at 4 a.m. The fire of these batteries I personally controlled by means of telephone from the signal tower on the Gordon Hall, some of them being unable to actually see the object aimed at from their positions.

Owing to the darkness and mist, fire was not opened until nearly 4.30 a.m.

The guns in the native city immediately replied by shelling the Settlement heavily for some time, one shell wrecking a portion of the hospital established in the Tientsin Club, from which, fortunately, nearly all the wounded had been removed on the previous day.

As the attacking columns advanced on their respective sides, the Russians soon came into conflict with the enemy, whom they steadily drove back towards the city.

At about 5 a.m. a tremendous explosion took place near the right flank of the Russians. This was caused by the blowing up of a magazine, said to be full of brown powder, close to the Lutai Canal, which had been set on fire by a shell from a French field gun.

A volume of black smoke was thrown up into the air for a height of at least 600 feet.

Much glass was broken in the Settlement, and the signal tower rocked heavily for some seconds.

No deaths or severe casualties resulted from the explosion, but very many Russians who were nearest to it were thrown from their horses, and the general in command received a blow on the head and arm from some falling debris.

Soon after this the attack on the left was perceived by the Chinese, and a heavy fire opened from some of the guns in the city.

Both attacks were steadily pressed home until the Chinese were driven under the walls, after some very heavy fighting, as the casualty lists show.

During the time of the advance a heavy fire was kept up, by my direction, from all our guns, both on the east and west, on the forts and guns which seemed to be firing most heavily on the attacking columns.

After the Russian attack had closed in near the city, I ordered Lieutenant Luard's 4-inch and 12-pr. guns in the Russian camp to direct their fire on the fort in the city.

I may here state that the outlying guns were all captured by the Russians.

A most destructive fire was kept up by all the guns to the westward, under Lieutenant Drummond, of H.M.S. "Terrible," on the south wall the city as the attacking force approached from the S.W., with the view of keeping down the enemy's fire, which was poured heavily from the wall on either side of the south gate when our troops had once passed the western arsenal.

Large portions of the wall were swept away, and the fire was considerably subdued, when a signal reached me from the general to request that all guns might cease fire on the wall, as the Japanese had entered the city. This subsequently proved not to have been the case, and was due to some misunderstanding of a report.

During the time the fire of the guns was taken off the south wall, the Chinese re-manned the battlements, and poured in a very heavy rifle fire, until the guns once more received permission to re-open on the wall, which they did with great effect.

The Chinese most gallantly stuck to their positions, keeping up a heavy rifle fire until literally swept away, wall and all.

It was then long past midday, and all our forces on the west were lying down under such shelter as was obtainable from houses and walls near the native city, and the arsenal walls in the case of the supports.

Killed and wounded have been brought in in great numbers; the Americans lost very heavily in proportion to numbers engaged, but, naturally, the Japanese losses were actually very great, they having such a large number under fire.

In fact, search parties were employed yesterday evening in bringing them in, many of them having been shot in the long grass to the N.W. of the canal.

The troops remained in position for the night, food and water being sent out to them.

At daylight next morning there was a little sniping from the walls, but nothing more.

The Japanese sappers blew in the first gate and climbed over and opened the next.

The enemy by this time had, it was found, practically quitted the city during the night, a large body being observed from the Gordon Tower to the N.W.

All the south side of the city was in possession of the allied forces by 6 a.m.

The large fort to the N.E. had not then been captured, but was subsequently taken by the Japanese about midday, and the whole of the place was divided into four districts, to be held by the foreign troops as detailed, the British holding the N.W. portion.

About 200 junks and a very useful stern-wheel steamer were captured in the canal to the north of the city, and will all be very useful later for water transport.

I have the honour to enclose despatches from Captain Burke and a letter from General Dorward, which will convey to you fuller details of the operations of the naval and marine brigade, about 300 strong.

The casualties in this force amounted to six killed and 38 wounded, the former including, I deeply regret to say, Captain H. T. R. Lloyd, R.M.L.I., of H.M.S. "Aurora," who has been engaged in every action with the marines with the force under your command on its march to